

CODE IMAGE DISTRIBUTION IN A MULTI-NODE NETWORK OF PROCESSORS

ABSTRACT

A multi-node processing network has a plurality of processors coupled in the network. The processors have a minimally operational state, e.g., upon being rebooted, and have a fully operational state employing a code image. The processors, when in the minimally operational state, request the code image from the network. The processors have a non-volatile memory storing code for the minimally operational state, which is sufficient to at least provide the code image request. A master source is coupled in the network, the master source having at least a code image for broadcasting on the network. The master source, upon receiving a code image request, waits a predetermined time period, the predetermined time period allowing any additional processor to reach the minimally operational state. Upon completion of the predetermined time period, the master source broadcasts the code image on the network. The processor may store the code image in volatile memory since it may easily be requested.